

Health Care-Related Bills Cosponsored, and Letters Cosigned, by Congressman Mark Souder in the 109th Congress

Patient Health (General):

- H.R. 1298, the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act, would give Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease full coverage of dialysis access procedures.
- H.R. 2355, the Health Care Choice Act, would give consumers more choices for health insurance by allowing them to select plans from any state—not just the state in which they live, thus lowering the cost of health insurance for millions of Americans and reducing the number of uninsured.
- H.R. 1262, the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act, would accelerate research on Alzheimer's disease within the National Institute on Aging. It would also authorize grants to develop state programs that would provide temporary relief to caregivers of those suffering from Alzheimer's.
- H.R. 583, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act, would spur our nation's treatment of victims of arthritis by awarding grants for research on arthritis and other rheumatic diseases.
- H.R. 827, the Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms Very Efficiently (SAAAVE) Act, would provide Medicare coverage of ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms.
- H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, would authorize public funds for programs to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers among women and health professionals.
- H.R. 1098, the American LIFE Fund for the Medical Treatment of the Uninsured Act, would allow taxpayers to contribute each year when they file their income tax returns to the Health Coverage for the Uninsured Trust Fund, which would help provide injury and catastrophic illness protection to individuals without health coverage.
- Letter to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael Leavitt opposing Medicare's restrictions on coverage only to those wheelchairs necessary for use in the patient's home.

Physicians:

- H.R. 2356, the Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act, would increase the compensation physicians receive from Medicare by replacing the current payment formula with one that updates reimbursement rates each year based on the rising costs of health care services.
- H.R. 534, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act, would tighten laws regulating medical liability lawsuits in order to reduce health care costs for consumers.
- H.R. 650, the Vaccine Accessibility for Children and Seniors Act, would provide liability relief for doctors from frivolous vaccine-related claims.

Ophthalmologists / Optometrists:

- H.R. 371 would regulate contact lenses as medical devices, so that cosmetic contact lenses could only be purchased by prescription.

Oncologists:

- April 2005 letter to President Bush supporting an extension of an expiring \$300 million that allows oncologists to be reimbursed when treating a patient for pain, nausea, or fatigue related to cancer treatment

Radiologists:

- H.R. 1426, the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence, would establish minimum education standards for those performing medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures.

Osteopathy:

- July 2005 letter to CMS Administrator Mark McClellan opposing CMS regulations limiting the ability of teaching programs to train their medical residents in ambulatory and rural settings.

Cytologists:

- August 1, 2005, letter to HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt expressed opposition to the decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a 1992 regulation requiring annual testing of physicians and cytotechnologists who read and screen Pap tests.

Physical Therapists:

- H.R. 1333, the Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act, would allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive services from physical therapists without a physician referral.

Nutritionists / Dieticians:

- H.R. 1582, the Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, would expand Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy (except for treatments of diabetes or renal disease).

Hospitals:

- May 12, 2005, letter to CMS Administrator Mark McClellan supporting reducing the size of the mandatory surveys hospitals use to measure quality, in order to control hospital costs.

Rehabilitation Hospitals:

- H.R. 916, the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, would repeal the current Medicare outpatient therapy cap, giving seniors much greater access to necessary outpatient rehabilitation services.
- July 20, 2005, letter to CMS Administrator Mark McClellan expressing opposition to a proposed policy that would cut Medicare reimbursement rates to

rehabilitation facilities when patients' length of stay is more than a day below the national average.

Nursing Homes:

- H.R. 976, the Long-Term Care Act, would make it easier for individuals to purchase long-term care insurance by allowing tax write-offs for money from retirement plans used for that purpose.

Ambulance:

- H.R. 2014, the Medicare Ambulance Payment Reform and Rural Equity Act, would revise the rates at which ambulance services are reimbursed under Medicare, increasing payments for ambulance services serving rural areas.